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Glossary

Coastal recreation waters

[As defined in the Clean Water Act, as amended by the BEACH Act], the Great Lakes and marine coastal waters (including coastal estuaries) that are designated under section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act by a state for use for swimming, bathing, surfing, or similar water contact activities. Coastal recreation waters do not include either inland waters or waters upstream of the mouth of a river or stream having an unimpaired natural connection with the open sea.

Coastal watershed

A geographic area that starts at the headwaters of the streams and rivers that ultimately drain to the coastal areas. Headwaters often include wetlands, which are typically adjacent to rivers or streams. Upon reaching coastal areas, rivers empty into estuaries. Nearshore waters (the areas directly offshore from the beach), offshore coral reefs (in tropical areas), and other offshore areas are also part of the coastal watershed (USEPA, 1998a).

Floatable debris

Waterborne waste material that is buoyant. Examples include wood, beach litter, street litter, sewage-related wastes, fishing gear, and medical wastes (Gaugler, 1999).

Marine debris (litter)

Solid materials of human origin that are discarded at sea or reach the sea through waterways or domestic and industrial outfalls (NAS, 1975).

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Acronyms

BEACH Act Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act

CCMP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan

CMC Center for Marine Conservation

CWA Clean Water Act

CSO combined sewer overflow

EPA Environmental Protection Agency

HEP Harbor Estuary Program

ICCC International Coastal Cleanup Campaign

LISS Long Island Sound Study

MARPOL Convention International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution by Ships

MPPRCA Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act MPRSA Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act

NEP National Estuary Program

NJDEP New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

NMDMP National Marine Debris Monitoring Program

NMFS National Marine Fisheries Service

NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NPDES National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

NYSDEC New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

POTW publicly owned treatment works

SJBE San Juan Bay Estuary

SMBRP Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project

SPA Shore Protection Act

SPI Society of the Plastics Industries, Inc.

SWD storm water discharge

TMDL Total Maximum Daily Load

USACE United. States. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S.C. United States Code

USCG United States Coast Guard WPCP water pollution control plant

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